

ancient Lombard capital, the struggle of its factions are told by him with something of the vividness of a fourteenth-century civic feud in Italy. He often stops to tell of local events that have little bearing on the great historic drama that was being played round him,—the deaths of clerics and notables of the town, the religious ceremonies, and other happenings of daily life. In the broad sense, Falco is a Lombard patriot and the voices of the old dispossessed racer, his hatred of the Normans is deep and sustained, to him they are the brigands, the scourge of old, the unforgiven foes of the native race. Nothing is more vivid in his pages than when he retails the long list of exactions imposed upon his native city by Roger of Ariano and the Norman tyrants of the vicinity. Falco lived through a half-century of thrilling years. From the rise of Robert Guiscfrd to the death of Roger II, and beyond, was the storm-centra of almost continuous wars, of the Popes and the the advance of the Normans, and the latter encroaching insatiably upon the once great duchy and its capital. Inside the walls was a continual war of

favouring papal suzerainty, the other
willing to
make terms with the Normans,
His
inner knowledge of the city,, which
of all the
Lombard and maritime
tion to the kingdom, and
to Falco's work He graphically
the
of various into the city. He has to